Discussion preparation for NPLCC S-TEK subcommittee meeting, June 13-14
What are some of the alternative ways to the S-TEK strategy could be defined/oriented?
**(Please review the following as background for the
planned discussion at 10:45 – 11:15 on 6/13)**

One can think of an S-TEK Strategy as defining a *portfolio* or collection of Science and TEK-related areas of focus that best achieve the overall objectives of the Strategy and of the NPLCC. An effective and beneficial portfolio, like a portfolio of investments, is not necessarily identified simply by choosing the top 5 (or top "X") from a ranked list of individual options. There are often additional considerations that managers and planners want and need to take into account in establishing a robust strategy.

During this section of the agenda we will talk about potential "portfolio-level" considerations for the strategy and how you might use those factors to define alternative structures for the S-TEK strategy.

Examples of such considerations are listed below. This list was developed based on S-TEK discussions, especially during the February meeting, previous discussions with the Steering Committee, and work with other LCCs and on other portfolio-type problems. Its intent is simply to provide a starting point for discussion on the 13th.

- New information vs information sharing: Relative focus on developing new information, on supporting existing efforts by others to develop or share information, and/or on providing access to decision-relevant information
- "Pure" information vs decision-support emphasis: Relative focus on developing/supporting/providing "pure" information versus developing/supporting/providing the tools, perspectives, and support needed to make appropriate use of information
- Geographic distribution: Relative focus/amount of work in different geographic areas within the LCC
- Ecosystem distribution: Relative focus/amount of work in a different ecological systems within the LCC, and on cross- or multi-ecosystem issues
- Supporting partners: Relative focus/amount of work directly applicable to the work of different LCC partners
- Timing: Relative focus on work that produces useful information in the near term ("quick wins") versus work that may take longer to yield results but which results may be more useful
- Breadth vs depth: Relative focus on breadth versus depth of work (e.g., Western AK LCC is focusing exclusively on "coastal processes" in their initial work, emphasizing depth over breadth; other plans include at least some work towards each of their identified priority needs in each year of the plan, emphasizing breadth first)
- Degree of focus on "foundational" work that builds the partnership and builds capacity for future success
- Definition/understanding of what constitutes a "cross-boundary" issue, and the degree of focus on those issues

- Appropriate scale(s) to consider (e.g., information and tools applicable across the entire region and partnership down to information and tools useful to a specific problem and an individual decision maker)

It may be useful to define alternative themes to see how these various considerations could lead to different S-TEK strategies. Some examples include:

- *Theme A*: *Center for data and information integration and sharing*. Emphasize bringing together data and information that has been and is being collected throughout the LCC region, analyzing and integrating the information where appropriate, and providing access to that information in a common format (or multiple accessible formats). Would initially target information and data related to the higher priority information needs. Seek to influence or support information gathering efforts by partners that are aligned with LCC priorities, but do not focus on initiating new research.
- *Theme B*: *Applied research to support near-term decision making*. Emphasize identification and development of science and TEK that is directly relevant to decisions that NPLCC partners need to make within the same time horizon as the Strategy (i.e., within the next 4-5 years).
- *Theme C*: *Fill gaps*. In this theme the NPLCC might focus on developing/collecting information and tools that no other partners are actively pursuing, but which have been identified as potentially useful to at least some of those partners.
- *Theme D*: *Deep dive*. Focus on a single information need and developing / supporting / coordinating all the various types of information that would aid decisions: new data, data sharing and collaboration, decision-support tools related to the use of that information, etc.
- Etc…